(a) whether Government has taken a decision to open various sectors in Civil Aviation Industry to FDI and also to rationalize the FDI norms in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the manner in which Government proposes to safeguard the interests of the domestic airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The Government has taken decision on Policy for Foreign Director Investment (FDI) in Civil Aviation Sector as under:—

Airports: (i) Greenfield Projects: FDI upto 100% is allowed under the automatic route.

(ii) Existing projects? FDI upto 100% is allowed with prior approval of the Government for FDI beyond 74%.

Air Transport Services: (i) Scheduled Air Transport Service/Domestic Scheduled Passenger Airline? FDI upto 49% and investment by Non-Resident Indians (NRI) upto 100% allowed on the automatic route.

(ii) Non-Scheduled Air Transport Service/Non-Scheduled airlines, Chartered airlines and Cargo airlines: FDI upto 74% and investment by Non-Resident Indians (NRI) upto 100% allowed on the automatic route.

(iii) Helicopter services/seaplane services requiring DGCA approval? FDI upto 100% allowed on the automatic route.

Other services under Civil Aviation Sector: (i) Ground Handling Services: FDI upto 74% and investment by Non-Resident Indians (NRI) upto 100% allowed on the automatic route. This will be subject to sectoral regulations and security clearance.

(ii) Maintenance and Repair organizations; flying training institutes; and technical training institutions? FDI upto 100% allowed on the automatic route.

(d) The new FDI policy will not affect the domestic scheduled airlines as it does not allow foreign airlines to participate directly or indirectly in the FDI. The same applies for non-scheduled and chartered operations.

Benefits to the employees of AI/IA after merger

2342. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the merging of Indian Airlines and Air India, Government has scrapped any benefits for the employees, including jobs for the kin of those employees who die during the service under compassionate grounds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is considering scrapping of any other benefits for the National Aviation Company of India Ltd. in the coming future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, harmonisation of facilities extended to employees of both the erstwhile Companies has been taken up by National Aviation Company of India Limited in order to ensure uniformity.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Aircrafts in the country

2343. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of aircraft both in Government and Private Sector being operated in India and from India;

(b) whether there is any shortage of pilots; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by his Ministry to address this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Merger of Air India and I.A.

2344. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has achieved any of the goals of merger of Air India and Indian Airlines during the first year of its merger;

(b) if so, the details thereof *vis-a-vis* goals of merger;

(c) whether it is a fact that flying by Air India is comparatively costlier than the other domestic private flight operators; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Consequent upon merger of erstwhile Indian Airlines and Air India into National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) on 27.8.2007 the integration process of different spheres of work has been initiated and the full integration would be achieved over two to three years. Benefits from the merger have already started flowing in the form of savings in procurement of fuel, insurance costs, network integration etc.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The fares offered by Air India are competitive and are based on market considerations such as fares offered by competitors, seasonability, product features like frequency, timings, direct/indirect operations etc.

Trespassing in Airports

†2345. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.